

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 21, 1848.

FOR Resuming duty, after three weeks' respite, we find so many things challenging our attention, that we scarcely know what first to dispose of. We shall try and determine our whereabouts, as soon as possible.

"**E**ST" We hope we shall be able in our next to resume the thread of "Margaret Smith's" Discourse, and also the series of eloquent Sketches of Modern Reforms and Reforms.

"**E**X" We refer our readers to the advertisement of the Wilmington Boarding School for Girls, an excellent institution.

OUR POSITION.

Every one has his whims, and one of ours is to sit under no man's frown. We never place the names of any candidates for office at our editorial head, no matter how warmly we may advocate their claims.

As to our position, no reader of the Era is in doubt. Released from all party obligations by the absorption, or translation, of the Liberty party into the Free Soil movement, we shall nevertheless earnestly urge the claims of Martin Van Buren, Charles A. Adams, to the offices for which they have been nominated by the Buffalo Convention, because they are the best representatives of our political creed.

JOHN VAN BUREN'S SPEECH.

The extract from the speech of Mr. Van Buren at Boston, published on our first page, are copied from the New York Tribune, with certain quaint headings, some of which are in bad taste, but they will all serve to attract attention to the speech itself.

FOREIGN OPINION.

The Journal des Débats of August 18th, contains a well-written, candid article on our late war with Mexico, and the consequences likely to grow out of it. The writer, while admitting that Mexico was guilty of some aggressions, contends that they were not of a nature to justify the resort to war. It speaks in the highest terms of the conduct of our army, and says, among other things, "how equal, if not surpassing, the general Custer himself." Testing our conduct in making peace with Mexico by the European mode of dealing with the conquered, he assumes that we have not abused our victories. The payment of eighty millions of francs to prostrate Mexico, for territories already within our grasp—a price no less than that paid to the conqueror Napoleon, for the magnificently territorial Louisiana—is regarded as mere trifling.

But the war, he thinks, has only laid the foundation for others. Not that Mexico will rashly renew the struggle with a so weakly hand superior, but her very weakness will constrain the United States to occupy successively every portion of her territory. A certain prestige has hitherto maintained the ascendancy of the white or Spanish race in Mexico; but this has been dispelled by the events of the war, and the result is, that now among the Indian and mixed bloods, which will be left unopposed, the country will fall into the hands of the negroes, and extend its dominion over all Mexico. The white population probably will be the first to invade the armies of the Americans of the North, as their only hope against annihilation. The example of Yucatan is in point.

This result may be delayed, or prevented—but one result is immediate and of vast importance, that is, the removal of all traces of existing Slavery.

The writer, however, admits that existing Slavery.

Formerly the States of the North were afflicted with this leprosy, under Colonial rule, but they are now exempt from it. In the States of the South the slaves were more numerous. Labor there was chiefly performed by them, and prejudice was too strong to be attacked by legislation. Slavery has been perpetuated in them, and, in a material aspect it is somewhat mitigated, its intellectual and moral evils are greatly aggravated. In some of the States it is a curse, by law, to teach slaves to read; in others, the master is denied the right to liberate his slave.

The existence of slavery is the sensitive point in the internal organization of the American Union. It has contributed to make it a federal in the house of which each member preserves a large share of the attributes of sovereignty. The Northern States have always shown extreme jealousy of the Slaveholding States.

The federal compact rests upon the compact, that Congress shall not interfere with the internal legislation of the States upon the subject of slavery. It was allowed to prohibit the slave trade with Africa, but the internal trade, to be exercised for the public good, and of course to be exercised in such a manner that it does not interfere with the internal legislation of the States.

Mr. Clay's friends in New York may have some private assurance from himself that he is opposed to the extension of slavery, but the extension of slavery, he is the author of a speech which has always been used with effect against the claims of freedom, the fact that he is a slaveholder, and has always strenuously withheld all Anti-Slavery movements, has never retarded a pro-slavery movement. He is the author of the speech in 1839 on the question of slavery. That speech was thoroughly pro-slavery. And it is within the recollection of most of our readers, that within a few years Mr. Clay has referred, with strong approbation, to his Missouri Compromise, which is the fatal precedent now urged by the Slavey party for the settlement of the question in relation to our new Territories.

We would not like to be inferred that the writer of the position has a correct view of the question, but we do insist, that the fact that Mr. Clay was the author of a speech which has always been used with effect against the claims of freedom, the fact that he is a slaveholder, and has always strenuously withheld all Anti-Slavery movements, has never retarded a pro-slavery movement. He is the author of the speech in 1839 on the question of slavery. That speech was thoroughly pro-slavery. And it is within the recollection of most of our readers, that within a few years Mr. Clay has referred, with strong approbation, to his Missouri Compromise, which is the fatal precedent now urged by the Slavey party for the settlement of the question in relation to our new Territories.

It is evident that the writer has a correct view of the position of the slaves question in this country. Our acts in regard to the whole region we have acquired from Mexico will not be done in a corner. Paroxysm and party leaders are now exposed to the scrutiny of the world. Intelligent men abroad are keeping their countrymen apprised of all our movements on the great question now agitating the Republic. We may represent them, but we cannot pervert the opinion of mankind. It is within the criminal action, or want of right, of our Government, it should be used with the leprosy of slavery, as a nation, we shall stand up to him as the propagandist of the cause. What an infamy such a fact would bring upon the name of Republicanism! What an argument it would put in the mouth of Despotism!

Mr. Robert Ward, the Paris correspondent of *L'Univers Littéraire*, refers to this article in the *Journal des Débats*, in his last letter, charging the writer with misrepresentation. We have given the substance of the article, translating literally its most important passages—and the reader can judge whether it is misrepresentation.

point of talents, and not less remarkable for the purity of his private character, but who, by an aberration uncontrollable in a single soul, became a slave. Mr. Calhoun of South Carolina, several times a member of the Cabinet, once even Vice President of the Republic, has disclosed in the Senate, the project of which he is the chief author, and which he began to execute, as the principal Minister of President Tyler—the project of conquering a part of Mexico, (throughout the whole extent of which slavery had been abolished,) for the purpose of giving slave States, to counteract the ever-increasing power of the North. This project, however, did not succeed, and when it was unsuccessful, was abandoned by the several relatives of several of the most prominent men of the South, especially by Mr. Benton of Missouri. It has provoked the denunciations of every Whig in the country. Mr. Clay, not only did not support it, but has been a decided opponent to it, and has even voted against it.

The meetings of the Whigs of the Union really prefer Henry Clay for their next President, (which I do not mean to call him a prompt and effective speaker,) as the Free Soil Club, which I consider the friends of emancipation, the press, and the halot-hexes! Grant that it is late—that any movement should be called a revolution, is in itself hazardous, but nevertheless there is the more reason for instantaneous action by all those who desire deliverance. Every Whig who has seen the Free Soil Club, or the Whig candidate for President, is let them speak and make themselves known to each other!

Meetings to respond to the Vauxhall demonstration have been held at several important points in the New York State, and the letter of Mr. Botts indicates that similar movements may be expected in other States.

The Albany Evening Journal, of New York, denounces the disaffected Whigs, charging their leaders with treason. The Philadelphia North American confidently expects a vote from Mr. Clay upon all such rebellious demonstrations.

One feature of these movements has arrested our attention—they seem to be characterized rather by devotion to Henry Clay, than any great principle. At the Vauxhall meeting, almost all the resolutions passed, not only declared an alliance with the Free Soil Club, but also a preference for Henry Clay, but not with a sincere attachment to the cause of freedom.

Mr. Clay is not the representative of the principle of Non-Extension of Slavery. His opposition to the Anti-Slavery cause was more decided and effective some years ago than that of Mr. Van Buren. He is a slaveholder, and has never given any ground for inferring that he does not continue to hold the same sentiments as he did when he was a slaveholder. He is a slaveholder in 1839 on the question of slavery. That speech was thoroughly pro-slavery. And it is within the recollection of most of our readers, that within a few years Mr. Clay has referred, with strong approbation, to his Missouri Compromise, which is the fatal precedent now urged by the Slavey party for the settlement of the question in relation to our new Territories.

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TRUE AND FALSE.

The New York Tribune says—

"I regret the right of suffrage as a solemn duty, to be exercised in such a manner that it may be made a duty. Every elector is morally bound to do whatever is necessary to fulfill his power to produce a wise election, under auspices which will insure him a chance of success; and he is further bound to do this for one of two reasons: either to vindicate a movement which tends to divide the opponents of slavery, and then to give it a wide circulation at the ballot-box."

They are three distinct propositions in this paragraph; the first and second, true; the third, false.

1. The right of suffrage is a solemn duty, to be exercised for the public good, and of course to be exercised in such a manner that it may be made a duty.

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We have not one word to say against the motives of these discredited Clay men. They have a perfect right to repudiate the Philadelphia nomination, to refuse their support to Martin Van Buren, to withhold their votes from any candidate, or to set up for themselves; but certainly, every man of them believes in the permanence of the right of suffrage, and that is the most important consideration.

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it is the judgment and belief of this meeting that there are more than that number of Free Democrats in the State, and that nothing is wanting but to call them out and he could not help remarking, "How had she grown?" The story called forth great applause.

Stephen C. Phillips was nominated for Governor, and John Mills for Lieutenant Governor; and the following Electoral Ticket was agreed upon:

Elected at large.

Samuel Hoen, of Concord, and William Jackson, of New Haven.

District Electors.

1. Joseph Walker, of Worcester.
2. John B. Alley, of Lynn.
3. John G. Whittier, of Amesbury.
4. Nathaniel Brooks, of Concord.
5. Alexander D. Parker, of Worcester.
6. George C. Fowle, of Westfield.
7. Thomas Robinson, of Adams.
8. Benjamin V. French, of Brimfield.
9. Philip Leahy, of Bridgewater.
10. Isaac Tinker, of New Bedford.

Mr. CROWELL, Whig member of Congress from Ohio, has come out in favor of Van Buren and Adams. So says the *Tribune of the People*.

The mover requested that none but those who had voted for Mr. Wentworth would vote on it; consequently, not even one-half of the delegates voted. It was carried, with but very few dissenting voices.

A State Central Committee was appointed—also another Committee to prepare an address to the people of the State.

The following electoral ticket was put in nomination:

William B. Ogden, of Cook county; John W. Battin, of DuPage county; John L. Evans, of Fulton county; Levi T. Treadwell, of Kane county; Thomas Hoyne, of Cook county; Lewis Keeling, of DuPage county; A. Lyon, of LaSalle county; Jonathan C. May, of DuPage county; George B. Arnold, of Madison county.

Dr. Ward, of Kane county, wished to inform the Convention that a neutral paper, printed in Keokuk, had determined to raise the Free Soil flag.

"Mr. Bostrom, of Madison, informed the Convention that he had voted to support the Free Soil party, and that he had voted to support the Free Democracy in its steamer," said Dr. Ward.

"Mr. Moton, of Lake county, said that the *Liberator* had issued a neutral paper, which had also accepted the Free Soil banner," said Dr. Ward.

"Mr. Stephens of Bureau county, also desired to say that the *Bureau Advertiser*, printed at Petersburg, had recently had three documents—Whig, Democratic, and Liberty—each maded the flag of the Free Democracy."

"The Convention gave three cheers for their success."

SOUTH CAROLINA.—A writer in the *Charleston Mercury* says:

"I have seen three or four of our men, who do not hesitate in private to declare their honest conviction that they see no valid objection to excluding slavery from the territories. And there are some of these strong-minded men, themselves slaveholders and native Carolinians."

Correspondence of the Evening Journal.

CANADAVILLE, Sept. 9, 1848.—A vote was taken on the question east this morning, which resulted in all voting for Taylor, 11; Van Buren, 47; Cass, 30; Clay, 4.

From the Albany Era—[Van Buren]

Vote taken in the era going to Niagara Falls to Buffalo, Wednesday, Sept. 6: Taylor, 6; Van Buren, 191; Cass, 41.

N. G. BLAKE, Whig nominee for the State Senate, from Medina and Lorain counties, Ohio, has issued an address announcing his adherence to the Free Soil movement, and his intention to vote for Mr. Van Buren.

"It may be," he says, "that will sell himself to the Slaveocracy, for the purpose of obtaining Southern votes, or that will hold his fellow man in bondage, and transform the image of man into an animal, and thereby gain a seat in the Senate. The *Sunday Mirror*, a Van Buren paper, taking away a great deal of its patronage, so much so, that they have sold it to the *Democrat* of Medina."

The *Lower Sundayly* (Ohio) *Telegraph*, a Taylorite paper, has been sold for \$1000, and it is largely maintained by the new paper made by Mr. Pettit, formerly in Congress, devoted to the discussion of the slave question, sound in its position, and in favor of the Free Soil cause, no choice. In the Senate, the Whigs have won 15 to 20 majority. To the House of Representatives, he is elected in the first district; and the friends of Clay and Fillmore are requested to assemble there at twelve o'clock that day.

MUSICAL.—We have the vote for Governor and Lieutenant Governor throughout Missouri, from small counties excepted. The Democratic票 is the largest received. The vote for members of Congress is as follows:

Dist. 1. W. H. Edwards 6,733
Special Voter 9,095
W. W. Smith 5,954
Fourth District 6,031
Fifth District 5,948
Total 31,291
One county defected.

MAG. — The returns from the 33 towns in townships indicate the result of the election of the city, as heretofore, but in the city, at the headquarters of Nationalism are Loocoofoom, in the District of Mognan, and the city known as the Capital of Nationalism, and constituting the First Congressional District. The meeting was convened in front of the Washington Hotel, a place lying between the two Union and Congress, and no less popular than the streets of the Territories; so that perfect equality may be preserved among those who meet there. The right spirit everywhere prevails. We hold a County Convention in Westchester this week, to send delegates to the State Convention at Albany, on the 16th inst. Leader, Garrison, and others hold this work for us every day. Noting, it seems to me, is wanting to secure a triumph, but to deluge the country with Free Soil publications.

PHILADELPHIA, September 16, 1848.—We have just had a splendid general meeting in Philadelphia. Not in the city, but in the suburbs, in the hall of the city, as heretofore, but in the city, at the headquarters of Nationalism are Loocoofoom, in the District of Mognan, and the city known as the Capital of Nationalism, and constituting the First Congressional District.

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PHILADELPHIA, September 16, 1848.—The Portland Advertiser, a weekly newspaper, has been sold for \$1000, and it is largely maintained by the new paper made by Mr. Pettit, formerly in Congress, devoted to the discussion of the slave question, sound in its position, and in favor of the Free Soil cause, no choice. In the Senate, the Whigs have won 15 to 20 majority. To the House of Representatives, he is elected in the first district; and the friends of Clay and Fillmore are requested to assemble there at twelve o'clock that day.

THE DESTRUCTION BY FIRE.—The Philadelphia Standard, a weekly newspaper, has been sold for \$1000, and it is largely maintained by the new paper made by Mr. Pettit, formerly in Congress, devoted to the discussion of the slave question, sound in its position, and in favor of the Free Soil cause, no choice. In the Senate, the Whigs have won 15 to 20 majority. To the House of Representatives, he is elected in the first district; and the friends of Clay and Fillmore are requested to assemble there at twelve o'clock that day.

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GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

JOHN COOPER, who lately attempted to kill Judge Stephen of Georgia, has been arrested and held to bail in the sum of \$10,000.

Mrs. INGERSOLL, Minister at the Court of Requests for nearly two years, has returned home.

A NATIONAL CONVENTION OF COLORED MEN was in session at Cleveland, Ohio, for two or three days. The object of the meeting was to devise plans for the melioration of the condition of the African race in the United States. The Herald says that the proceedings were marked by a spirit of decided interest, and a second day a discussion of marked interest took place, on a resolution declaring mental services, offering to render the same as a cause, and recommending the use of all their energies in agriculture, in the pursuit of an occupation in agriculture, mechanical, mercantile, and professional vocations.—*National Intelligencer*.

INDIANA.—The Cincinnati Morning Herald says: "Nash can prevent Indians from shortly encircling herself in the list of Free Soil States. She is rapidly preparing to repudiate such conduct as that of the Indians."

WE SAY.—Tipperary found a report of a speech made by Mr. Pettit, formerly in Congress, devoted to the discussion of the slave question, sound in its position, and in favor of the Free Soil cause, no choice. In the Senate, the Whigs have won 15 to 20 majority. To the House of Representatives, he is elected in the first district; and the friends of Clay and Fillmore are requested to assemble there at twelve o'clock that day.

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